Nati Harnik/The Associated Press

Jews emigrating from Ukraine, a former Soviet republic, gaze toward shore as their ship prepares to dock in Haifa, Israel.

477 Soviet Jews sail home

Israeli applause greets renewal of transport by sea

The Associated Press

HAIFA, Israel — To applause and the jubilant sound of a ram's horn, a ship carried 477 Jews from the former Soviet Union to Israel on Friday in the first such trip by sea since the wave of immigration began two years ago.

Four tugboats pulled the golden-hulled Greek vessel Mediterranean Sky into Haifa Bay as immigrants on deck sought out relatives and loved ones gathered on shore. One immigrant blew a *shofar*, the horn sounded on important Jewish holidays.

To some Israelis, it was a scene reminiscent of their country's early days, when most immigrants arrived by ship. Others took a less romantic view.

Simcha Dinitz, head of the Jewish Agency, a quasigovernmental organization responsible for bearing immigrants to Israel, said he did not "want to spoil the euphoria" but found it "logistically stupid to be engaging in such operations."

But Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, Cabinet minister in charge of immigration, said the sea route has advantages. He was quoted by Israel Radio as saying sea travel could become a new channel for immigrants.

The ship departed Odessa, Ukraine, on Monday. But news of the voyage was suppressed by Israeli military censors until Friday, apparently because the Eastern Mediterranean is part of the battlefield between Israel and Palestinian guerrillas based in neighboring Lebanon.

Security concerns were heightened this week when a car bomb exploded near a bus carrying immigrants through Budapest, Hungary, en route to Israel. Two policemen escorting the bus were injured. A previously unknown Arab organization claimed responsibility.

The voyage was financed by the Ebenezer Emergency Fund, a British-based Zionist organization, and organized by Ofek Aliya, an Israeli-based group of businessmen. The British group said it had chartered the ship for three sailings at a cost of $500,000.

Most of the 340,000 immigrants who have arrived in Israel since mid-1989 have flown.

The Jewish Agency said it is too early to predict how future Jewish immigration will be affected by the demise of the Soviet Union and its replacement by the new Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Mediterranean Sky carried 477 Soviet Jews, 55 tourists, 22 Israeli government officials, and 17 Christians, officials said.

Egyptian writer guilty of blasphemy

The Associated Press

CAIRO — A security court has convicted a novelist of blasphemy and sentenced him to eight years in prison, the first time this century an Egyptian author has been jailed for his writing.

The court ordered similar terms Thursday for the publisher-distributor of Alaa Hamid's *The Distance in a Man's Mind* and the owner of the press where the book was printed.

Published in May 1990, *The Distance in a Man's Mind* presents dream sequences in which the main character meets prophets of the Koran, Islam's holy book, in comic situations. Many of the prophets are revered by Christians, Jews and Muslims.

The blasphemy charges grew out of a report by the Islamic Research Group of Al-Azhar, Cairo's Muslim educational complex considered the intellectual seat of Islam. The group banned the book and recommended that Hamid be tried on charges that his alleged ridicule of the prophets was heretical and blasphemous.

The case recalled the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's 1989 death sentence on British author Salman Rushdie, whose book *The Satanic Verses* is considered offensive to Islam.

Hamid's case has drawn the attention of International PEN, the London-based writers' group that concerns itself with legal abuse of colleagues.

LESLIE'S
Swimming Pool Supplies
Price Pledge
Great Values
Professional Service
4000 Items Available
GLENDALE 5036 W. Cactus (Next To Albertson's) (602) 843-2568
PHOENIX 3202 E. Greenway Rd. (Greenway Park Plaza) (602) 493-3778
TEMPE 730 E. Guadalupe (Albertson's Plaza) (602) 820-5105

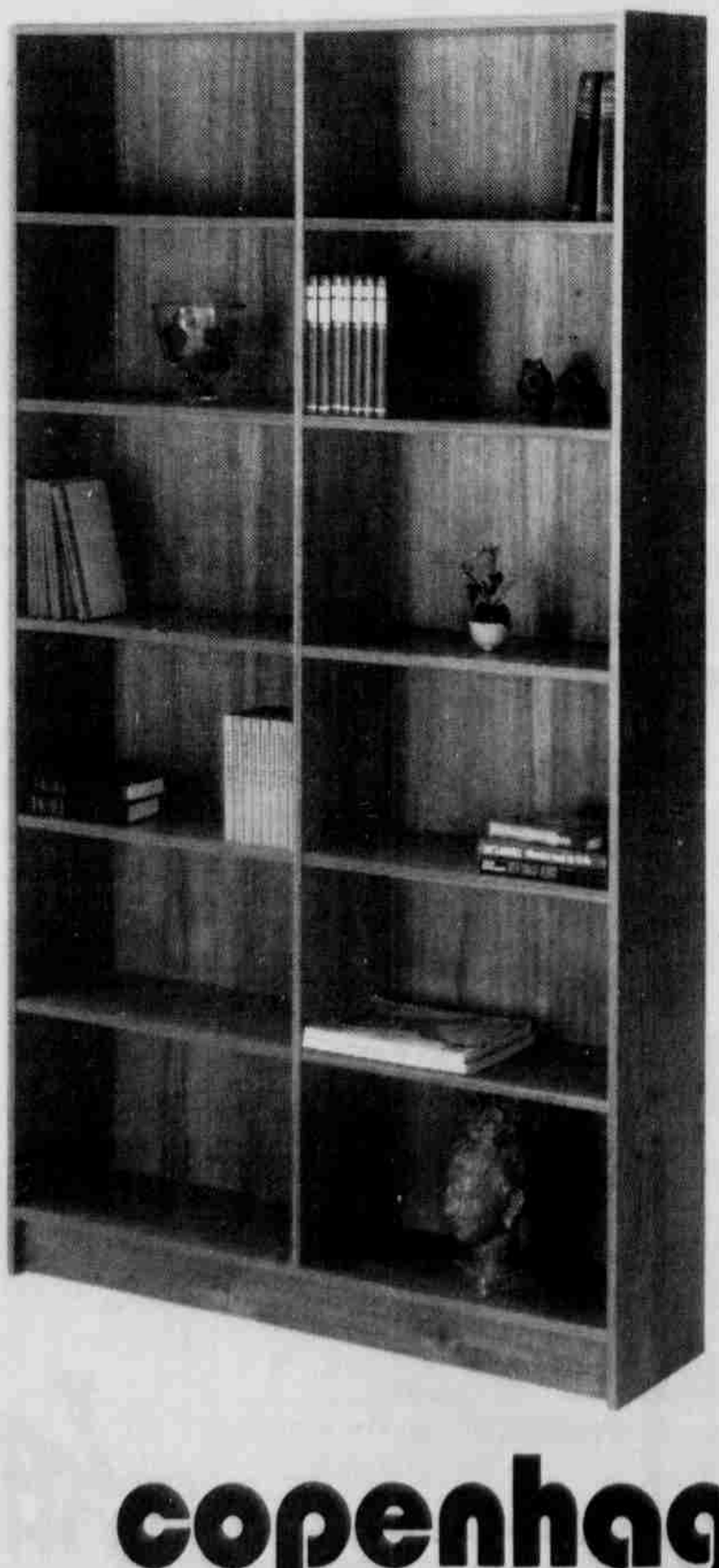
NEVER REPLASTER
Inter-glass®
YOUR SWIMMING POOL
25-YEAR WARRANTY
CALL NOW 267-7665
AMERICAN CHEM-TECH, INC.
2326 E. Magnolia • Phoenix • AZ
LIC. #B-506824/A-9072380
LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

COMPUTER FURNITURE
HUNDREDS OF CHOICES
$49.90
At Lower Than Warehouse Club Prices
MOBILE COMPUTER CART
COLONIAL OAK O'SULLIVAN
Len Ronson COMPUTER FURNITURE
Delivery & Setup Available
Monday Thru Friday 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Saturday 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
OPEN SUNDAYS
2 1/4 blocks south of 40th Street & I-10 Exit
4806 S. 40th Street Phoenix 437-4037
Phoenix 967-3660 Tempe
ARIZONA'S LARGEST COMPUTER FURNITURE SELECTION © Len Ronson 1991

Our Last Sale of the Year!
Save up to 50%!!
EVERY:
CD Changer & Player On Sale!
Stereo Receiver On Sale!
Cassette Deck On Sale!
Loudspeaker On Sale!
Amp/Preamp/Tuner On Sale!
TV On Sale!
Surround Sound On Sale!
All-in-One Stereo On Sale!
Personal Portable On Sale!
Big Screen TV On Sale!
VCR On Sale!
Flexible Payment Plans (oac)
Layaway ▲ VISA
MasterCard ▲ AMEX
Discover
Bun Jansen's SOUND ADVICE
2230 EAST INDIAN SCHOOL ROAD
955-8800
B&W • Bang & Olufsen • Bryston • CWD • JVC • Klipsch • Lexicon • Luxman • Mark Levinson • Martin Logan McIntosh • NAD • Paradigm • Philips • Pioneer • Proton • Vandersteen • Velodyne • Vidikron • Yamaha

CARPET LOWEST PRICES
DU PONT CERTIFIED STAINMASTER CARPET
3 DAYS ONLY
DU PONT CERTIFIED STAINMASTER CARPET
FRIEZE
Footprint Hider
$12.99 SQ. YD. INST. W/PAD
COMPARE AT 21.99
PHILADELPHIA
PLUSH or SCULPTURE
$10.99 SQ. YD. INST. W/PAD
COMPARE AT 15.99
DU PONT CERTIFIED STAINMASTER CARPET
BERBER
$13.99 SQ. YD. INST. W/PAD
COMPARE AT 23.99
DU PONT CERTIFIED STAINMASTER CARPET
EXTRA LIFE
Ultimate in Quality
$16.99 SQ. YD. INST. W/PAD
COMPARE AT 27.99
PHILADELPHIA
CUT & LOOP
$8.99 sq. yd. inst. w/pad
COMPARE AT 12.99
PHILADELPHIA
FRIEZE
Extra Heavy Textured Plush
$14.99 SQ. YD. INST. W/PAD
COMPARE AT 25.99
90 DAYS SAME AS CASH — IMMEDIATE INSTALLATION AVAILABLE
Hundreds Of Rolls & Remnants
West Side
CARPET SECONDS
2972 W. THOMAS
Phone 278-0026
(4 BLKS. WEST OF FREEWAY)
HOURS: M-F 9-8 SAT. 9-6 SUN. 12-5
East Side
CARPET DEPOT
2930 N. 32ND ST.
Phone 956-2755
IN HOME DEPOT CENTER FACING 32ND ST.

Did you get all booked up at Christmas?



COPENHAGEN'S BOOKCASE BONANZA!
Over 1000 bookcases in stock for immediate delivery. With a variety of sizes and finishes available, Copenhagen has the right bookcase for any space and any purpose at the best prices in town. Shop our bookcase bonanza this week.

◀ 48"x12"x76"H with adjustable shelves providing 22½ feet of shelf space. Teak or oak. Quality-made by Vestergard in Denmark.

SPECIAL PROMOTION PRICE AS SHOWN.
$189
(delivery extra)

copenhagen
PHOENIX 701 W. Indian School Phoenix, AZ 85013 266-8060
SCOTTSDALE 7000 E. Shea Blvd. (2 blocks west of Scottsdale Rd., next to Bobby McGee's) 483-3553
TEMPE/MESA 2346 E. Southern (at Price) in the Designer Circle Center 838-3080
HOURS: Mon.-Sat.: 9am-6pm Sundays: noon-5pm
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

Reproduced with permission of copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.